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Southern Educator

Reflective Educators for Diverse Learners

September 2018

Volume 7 Issue 9

Upcoming Events



September 21-22

Rural HIV Research and Training
Conference | Savannah, GA
[More Information](#)

September 22

STEMFest 2018
Statesboro Campus
10am-4pm | [More Information](#)

September 27

Future Georgia Educator Day
Statesboro Campus
[More Information](#)

September 27-29

Georgia International
Conference on Information
Literacy | Savannah, GA
[More Information](#)

September 28

OSSRP Grant Writing Workshop
Statesboro Campus | COE 2148
RSVP to Janina Jones

College of Education names annual faculty and staff award winners



The Jack Miller Faculty Awards are given annually to recognize Georgia Southern University College of Education (COE) faculty for demonstrated excellence in areas of teaching, service and/or scholarship. Awards can be given in each area along with an additional Educator of the Year Award, which recognizes scholarship in all three of the considered areas.

For the 2018-2019 academic year, four COE faculty members received Jack Miller Awards including (pictured l-r) **Antonio Gutierrez de Blume, Ph.D.**, **Mete Akcaoglu, Ph.D.**, **Alisa Leckie, Ph.D.**, and **Catherine Howerter, Ph.D.**

>>> [Read full story.](#)

The Betty-Ware Wray staff award is given annually to a College of Education (COE)



October 1-6

Homecoming Week
"A Southern Masquerade"
[More Information](#)

October 5

Classes cancelled beginning at
2pm for Homecoming
[See Academic Calendar](#)

October 5

Georgia Educational Research
Association (GERA) Conference
Macon, GA
[More Information](#)

October 8

Last day to withdraw without
academic penalty
[See Academic Calendar](#)

October 30

COE Faculty Qualitative
Methods Development Session
COE 2148 | 12 - 2 pm
Statesboro Campus

November 1

Graduate School Fair
Statesboro Campus
Russell Union Ballroom
10am - 1pm

Armstrong Campus
Student Union Ballroom, 2nd fl.
4pm - 7pm

November 15

Education Career Fair
Statesboro Campus
Nessmith-Lane Center
10am - 1pm

November 16

Education Career Fair
Armstrong Campus
Student Union Ballroom, 2nd fl.
10am - 1pm

[See COE Event Calendar](#)

Education (COE) staff member who has excelled in his or her job performance as well as University service. During the College's annual meeting on Aug. 8, COE's Student Success Center (SSC) Director, **Chris na Thompson**, was named the 2018-2019 award recipient.



>>> [Read full story.](#)

COE alumna, principal applies doctoral research to prepare others for school administration jobs



In education, everything doesn't always go as planned. After 10 years as a middle school educator, **April Hodges, Ed.D.** (pictured center), originally thought she would work with curriculum once she left the classroom. However, her first position as an assistant principal changed the direction of her future, guiding her to administration.

"I thought the first job I got as an assistant principal would be a stepping stone into a curriculum position, but when I got into the job I really liked it," Hodges said. "I liked working with the students and their families, and my ambitions melded into something else."

>>> [Read full story.](#)

College of Ed welcomes new faculty and staff

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COE Homepage

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Forward
to a Friend

Georgia Southern University's College of Education (COE) is excited to welcome new members to the College team including seven faculty and seven staff members.

New faculty members include: **Stephanie Devine, Ph.D., Kathryn Haughney, Ph.D., Allison Jackson, Ph.D., Beverly King Miller, Ph.D., Taylor Norman, Ph.D., David Owens, Ph.D., and Alexandra Reyes, Ph.D.**

Staff members who joined the College within the past year include **Nicole Wright Aldana, Hillary Cummins, Jazmin Dekle, Kelly Kennedy, Lakesha Loving, Ingrid Mateo-Anderson, Hollie Sisk, and Mary Thaler.**

>>> [Read bios of new faculty and staff here!](#)

Nu Zeta Chapter on Armstrong Campus receives bronze award for literacy project



The Nu Zeta Chapter at Georgia Southern University's Armstrong Campus in Savannah, is known for their community service and engagement within the city and surrounding areas.

A University chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (KDP), an international honor society in education, Nu Zeta was recently recognized for their 2017-2018 literacy project, "Read to Lead: Celebrating our Community! Empowering Readers!."

The project had each student in the chapter read "There's Greatness on the Inside" by Byron Garrett, a book appropriate for all ages that counteracts limiting messages in society and encourages social and emotional skills. Nu Zeta members then had local celebrities such as news anchors, firefighters and police officers, read the book to students in their classrooms. Afterward, the class participated in an age-appropriate activity associated the building of social and emotional skills.

>>> [Read full story.](#)

Additional Headlines



[COE doctoral candidates receive national recognition](#)

Presentation named conference's Distinguished Educator Workshop



[Georgia Southern spotlights COE faculty member Alma Stevenson](#)



[Annual Rural HIV Conference scheduled for Sept. 21-22](#)

Conference to take place in Savannah, GA



[Jonathan Hilpert featured on latest COE Research Brief](#)

Subscribe to the Research Briefs mailing list!

Faculty Updates

The College named the new Staff Advisory Committee members for 2018-2019. Members were nominated and voted on by the staff of the College. Members include: [Hillary Cummins](#), Armstrong Campus; [Kelly Kennedy](#), Statesboro Campus; [Lisa Leach](#), Statesboro Campus; [Julie Beth Lynch](#), Statesboro Campus; and [Hollie Sisk](#), Armstrong Campus.

[Scott Beck, Ph.D.](#), professor in the Dept. of Middle Grades and Secondary Education, and [Alma Stevenson, Ph.D.](#), associate professor in the Dept. of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, published " [Teaching Contentious Books Regarding Immigration: The Case of Pancho Rabbit](#) " in The Reading Teacher, this month. The article was a part of the inaugural publication of the "Teaching Bi/Multilingual Learners" section of the journal. In the article, Beck and Stevenson focus on Duncan Tonatiuh's 2013 children's picture storybook *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote*, which won multiple awards but received criticism from anti-immigrant critics. The article pushes back against criticism by placing the book in the context of other tales for young people and immigrant children's own life experiences. Beck and Stevenson's study demonstrates how thoughtful teachers of multilingual learners can defend culturally sustaining books and use them to benefit all students.

Academic Advisors [Jazmin Dekle](#) and [Nicole Wright Aldana](#) and Student Success Center Director [Chris Thompson](#) attended the Appreciative Advising Institute held July 29-August 1 in Boca Raton, FL at Florida Atlantic University. Appreciative Advising consist of six phases: disarm, discover, dream, design, deliver and don't settle. The four-day event provides hands-on and active learning for advising practitioners. This approach has had a lot of success and the movement has expanded and is now known as Appreciative Education.

State Superintendent Richard Woods and Zephine Smith-Dixon, Ed.D., state director of special education services and supports, appointed [Karin Fisher, Ph.D.](#), assistant professor in the Dept. of Elementary and Special Education, to serve on the Special Education State Advisory Panel for a three-year term. Fisher will assist in advising the state on the unmet needs related to the education of children with disabilities as well as feedback on rules and regulations proposed by Georgia regarding special education. The Panel takes public comment that can be submitted by [clicking here](#).

Kathryn Haughney, Ph.D. , assistant professor in the Dept. of Elementary and Special Education, co-authored an article that appeared earlier this year in the TEACHING Exceptional Children journal. The article, titled "**Response Prompting as an ABA-Based Instructional Approach for Teaching Students with Disabilities** ," explains the components and use of response-prompting instruction and how to efficiently implement this form of instruction in special needs classrooms.

Haughney also published "**Effects of Functional Communication Training Using GoTalk Now iPad Application on Challenging Behavior of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder** ," in the Journal of Special Education Technology in June. This article details a study investigating the effects of a functional communication training intervention consisting of systematic prompting and natural reinforcement on the challenging behaviors of two children with autism spectrum disorder aged five and six years old.

Anne Katz, Ph.D. , associate professor Dept. of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, has been invited to serve as a collaborator for the NIH NIBIB-ESTEEMED "Achieving Diversity through Integrative Scientific Research Experience" (ADISRE) at Savannah State University (SSU). The five-year grant initiative, led by Principal Investigator Karla-Sue Marriott, Ph.D., professor and interim chair of the Chemistry and Forensic Science Department at SSU, is a new student-centered NIBIB-ESTEEMED research education program with an overarching goal of producing STEM graduates with an internal drive to serve their community by pursuing a career in biomedical sciences. Katz will lead close reading and critical thinking workshops through text with a science lens on a yearly basis throughout the grant period.

Robert Mayes, Ph.D. , professor in the Dept. of Middle Grades and Secondary Education, published an article in the International Journal of Engineering Pedagogy earlier this year. The article, titled "**Interdisciplinary STEM through Engineering Design-based Reasoning** ," describes the Real STEM Project, a collaboration with 12 schools to develop and implement middle and high school stem programs. Focus is also placed on engineering design-based reasoning, as this is typically a driving force for STEM programs.

Peggy Shannon-Baker, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Dept. of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, is serving on the **Mixed Methods International Research Association** (MMIRA) Board for 2018-2019 as the chair for Professional Development. In this position, Shannon-Baker will be responsible for coordinating MMIRA's massive open online courses (MOOCs) and facilitating other professional development opportunities related to mixed methods research.



Directly impacting students through Current Use program

Eddie Pollard earned a bachelor's in health and physical education ('74) from Georgia Southern's College of Education before continuing his education at the University of West Georgia, where he received a master's and specialist in administration and supervision. Pollard, now retired, served the majority of his education career as a principal. Schools led by Pollard include: Flint River Academy, Flat Rock Middle School, Braelinn Elementary School, North Fayette Elementary School and Tyrone Elementary School. During his leadership, two of the schools were named a



Eddie Pollard, Ed.S.

Georgia School of Excellence, and in 2011, Pollard was named Georgia's National Distinguished Principal.

"Georgia Southern provided opportunities that prepared me for a successful education career," Pollard said. "I made lifelong friends and remain amazed at the number of alumni I have met."

Pollard is a proud supporter of the College's Current Use Scholarship Program, a program that provides direct use of donations to education majors. The advantage of a program such as this is that donors can participate on any giving level to help directly impact a current student.

"It is an honor to give back financially to the College of Education and help provide monetary assistance for students who will leave Georgia Southern prepared to educate children," he added.

Pollard is a current member of the COE's Advisory Board.

For information on how you can support the College of Education, please contact John Ramfjord at jramfjord@georgiasouthern.edu.